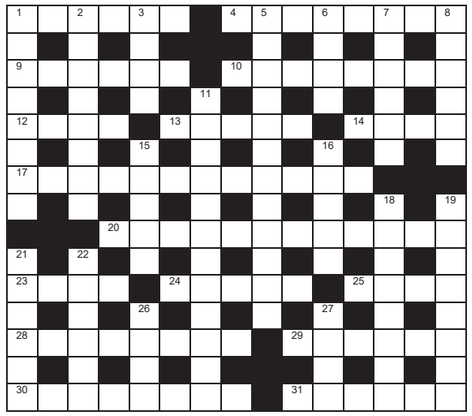
Christmas Crossword

by Artemonas



Across

1) Poet at town without economist (6)
4) Took up cause of Ed embracing partner (8)
9) Puritan JCB? (6)
10) Backwards and forwards and do a front shuffle (2,3,3)
12) Involved from the first I noticed the office (4)
13) It rises in Holy Eastertide (5)
14) Hamsters, for example, go up rise (4)
17) Round and about, with and without a junction at the start (4,3,5)
20) Not playing bridge to full potential – or losing in the auction? (11)
23) Honest or perhaps educated nicely to start with (4)
24) Some of Peter's talent is going off (5)
25) Wicked spirit has a drink it's said (4)
28) Grip – in the shopping bag? (8)
29) Mixing drinks dispensers can provide the subjects (6)
30) Actions on motorways are wrong (8)
31) Churchmen changed by great meal (6)

Down

1) G, it's 12 am (8)
2) Boats may help provide fires (8)
3) Port lost first six balls (4)
5) Hospital battles but loses three newspaper games (5,3,4)
6) Has snow melted? (4)
7) Easy newspaper moves to asylum (6)
8) Goes limp when doctor makes mistake (6)
11) Deters varied ways and promoted again (12)
15) Decorate one in the measure (5)
16) Untreated madness cured? (5)
18) Factional, splitting side 6-4 (8)
19) Worried as I'd gone mad (8)
21) Brush up twice decoration (6)
22) Lord and judge turn back the wheel (6)
26) Hose damaged footwear (4)
27) Company work in the henhouse? (4)

Answers can also be found on the Association Website www.moorpool.org.uk in December

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Our classes will remain socially distanced and the space well ventilated. We want you to continue to feel confident to come along to our classes.

Places are **limited** so booking in advance is **essential**
Book here **www.xpress-yourself.co.uk/dance-classes**

Tuesday's 13:30-14:30
Moor Pool Hall, The Circle, Harborne
Classes are £6.

Special offer for NEW DANCERS 6 classes for £12
https://xpress-yourself.co.uk/product/new-dancer-keep-dancing-harborne-dance-class-6-week-booking/

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The Moor Pool DUCK Newsletter



What's on

Saturday 5th December 5-6pm **Santa's Sleigh Tour of Moor Pool -** See Santa's sleigh as it drives around Moor Pool, starting at 5pm outside Moor Pool Hall and then taking in most roads around the Estate. You're welcome to follow the sleigh (staying on pavements) or just watch it go past from the pavement or your doorstep. This event is free to attend, however donations to Moor Pool Heritage Trust are hugely appreciated! Find Santas route on the Trust's website at *moorpoolhall.org.uk*

Sunday 6th December 11am-2pm **Santa's Grotto -** Meet Santa in his magical Grotto in the Main Hall! £6 per child including gift and craft activities. Tickets must be pre-booked and are available at *www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/shop*.

We have fixed the price from 2025 as we know so many of you love our Moor Pool Grotto and we want to make it as affordable as possible for families. Refreshments and photo opportunities also available.

Sunday 13th December 2-4pm **Carols in the Hall -** Join the Moor Pool Residents Association and The Rock Choir for sing-along carols and festive tunes with mince pies and mulled wine. Child friendly.



Sunday 20th December 6.30-8.30pm **Christmas Radical Rest with Yoga Hart -** Tap out of the frenzy of the festive season this winter solstice with a two hour candlelit retreat to clear your mind, rest and restore ahead of the big day! We'll begin with a restorative yoga practice to help you wind down before an extended yoga Nidra practice, which allows the body to take deep rest while the mind is guided, leaving you feeling rejuvenated & restored. We'll end with a glass of bubbles (non alcoholic alternatives available) and a mince pie to toast the season! Book your place: *https://yogahart.co.uk/*

Thursday 21st January 3.00-6.00pm **Homes, heritage, people and planet -** The University of the West of England invite you to an interactive workshop as part of a research project. Book a place and drop in between 3.00pm and 6.00 pm. See posters and the Duck for further details and how to book.

Saturday 30th January 12.30 pm **Moor Pool Residents Association AGM *in the Lower Hall* -** All residents welcome to attend but only members may vote.

Friday 19th February 10am-12pm **Half Term Crafts -** Join us for a morning of seasonal crafting this half term. £5 per child - no booking required, just turn up. Moor Pool Main Hall.



From the Chair of the Residents Association | *www.moorpool.org.uk*

Xmas Greetings

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas season and inviting you to the Association's free Christmas event *Carols In The Hall*. This year we are excited to welcome **The Rock Choir** to entertain us and join with us as we sing Christmas songs and carols. 2-4pm in the main Moor Pool Hall on Sunday December 13th. There is always a party atmosphere at this informal friendly event. A great way to start the Christmas season. No booking required.

An Update on Traffic Calming proposed for Ravenhurst Rd

Councillor Kevin Carmody has updated the Association on this project. You may recall that there is to be a revised proposal put in front of residents and to this end the City Engineers have been doing exploratory work at the junction of Ravenhurst Rd and Moor Pool Avenue. It has been flagged up that the granite setts and kerbs must be preserved during this process, and it has been confirmed that they will not be removed.

Receive a £20 Shopping Voucher- Homes, Heritage, People

During the Summer the Association was approached by the University of The West of England who are carrying out a research project in conservation areas about how homes can be made greener and warmer where they need to be retro fitted AND comply with conservation rules. There is an invitation to an interactive workshop on January 21st between 3.00 pm and 6.00 pm in the Moor Pool Lower Hall. For further information and to book your place see the advert in this edition of The Duck and posters around the Estate. If you attend you will be rewarded with a shopping voucher as well as tea, coffee and cake. This is funded by UWE.

If you can't sign up using the QR code please contact me for help. *chair@moorpool.org.uk*

Membership

If you are an Association member we want to make sure that we have the correct details for you, particularly your email address as we are currently unable to circulate members by email as our list has big gaps in it. We also know that our membership list needs updating. We will be contacting members after Christmas to check details.

Membership Subscriptions

A gentle reminder also that if you have not set up a standing order to pay your annual £10 subscription it will be due on January 1st 2027.

Bank details for the Moor Pool Residents Association with Lloyds are - Sort code 30-19-14 Account number 03808193. Please use your surname and first line of your address as the reference. You can pay each year if you prefer. Any cash payment, marked with your name and address, can be delivered via the Estate Office in an envelope marked for the MRA .

Margaret Harrold *chair@moorpool.org.uk*

West Midlands Regional Winner - 2026 Everyday History Heroes

In September, Moor Pool Heritage Trust were delighted to have been chosen by the public as regional winner for the West Midlands in the 2026 Everyday History Heroes competition.

Created by a partnership between Heritage Open Days and UK family history website, Findmypast, the 'Everyday History Heroes' award celebrates the historic and cultural sites that champion the stories of ordinary people – from nurses and miners to teachers, soldiers and changemakers. The award centres on the grassroots histories that often go untold: the communities who powered industries, stood up for their beliefs, and built modern Britain.

In the West Midlands, only three organisations were shortlisted by a judging panel: Moor Pool Heritage Trust, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and Escape Arts in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Barbara Nomikos, Hall Manager, says "*We feel very honoured that our work to celebrate, preserve and share the stories of everyday people and the Moor Pool community has inspired both the public and judging panel. Huge thanks to everyone who voted for us!*"

One of the stories uncovered is that of Arthur Leslie Kelley, who lived at 1 The Circle and was one of Birmingham's leading meteorologists. Together with his father he played a leading role at the Edgbaston Observatory between 1917 and 1967.

To discover more about Arthur and the Everyday Working Lives project, go to *www.moorpoolhall.org.uk/exploring-moor-pools-everyday-working-lives/*



Lending a (green) hand!

On Friday 16th October, volunteers from RAB Consultants Ltd did a wonderful job clearing the Orchard of brambles and building a new compost heap, helping to make the space more user-friendly for Forest School sessions. A big thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to improve one of our community-owned green spaces!



News from Clubs and Societies

Circle Cinema Club

Circle Cinema's next showing will be:

Sunday 29th November 7.15pm (doors open 6.15pm) - **Thelma** (2024)

An elderly woman takes matters into her own hands after falling victim to a telephone scan in this warm-hearted US comedy drama, in which different generations reach out to each other in times of trouble.

Our 2027 (films tbc) are: 24th January and February 28th.

Book Club



The group met on 17 September to discuss 'A Flat Place' by Noreen Masud.

A Flat Place explores Masud's journeys across flat British landscapes and the author uses the starkest landscapes to write about place, race, and trauma simultaneously.Most members of the group enjoyed reading the book and the discussion that it generated.

November's choice was Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce.

The next meeting will be 27th January. The group will be discussing 'The Poisonwood Bible ' by 'Barbara Kingsolver'.

For details about future meetings contact Gill Morgan *gillianmorgan1952@gmail.com*

Moor Pool Skittles Club



Come along and join us for some mild exercise, good fun and lots of good humour! We generally play on Monday from 7.30p.m finishing around 9p.m. Within the club there is a competitive element, though fairly light hearted and visitors are always welcome to join us and 'have a go'. Please be aware that the club is for over 16yrs only and access to the alley off the Lower Hall is via awkward steps. In the run up to Christmas and into the New Year there are times when there is no session or if the weather is being unkind, we have to cancel so contact us before coming.

For more information contact Tina at *tsuzanne444@gmail.com* or *07757967264*

Harborne Tenants' Billiards & Snooker Club

The club, one of Harborne's best kept secrets, now has memberships available.

The club has three tables and as well as being a place for members to practise or play casual games, it also hosts a variety of events and competitions to cater for all standards. The club also holds occasional coaching sessions run by a WPBSA qualified coach.

Annual memberships are currently £115 per annum with memberships running May to April. No other costs are levied with members able to book tables for 1-3 hourly sessions via an internet booking site

If you would like to join please contact Derek on *membership@htsnookerclub.uk*.

For more information follow / direct message us on facebook, instagram or bluesky: *@htsc1947* or email *htsc1947@gmail.com*.

Nettlefold Garden – Winter Opening Hours

The garden is now open weekends only, 10am till 4pm, until the end of March. This gives the garden (and the volunteers) time to rest and recover through the winter months.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Halloween Spooktacular - didn't we have a great time?!

If you'd like to get involved with the garden, either gardening or events or by helping on the gate rota, or if you have some future suggestions, do please email the committee at *nettlefoldgarden@gmail.com*



Answers to December's crossword:
Across: 1) Milton; 4) Espoused; 9) Digger; 10) To and fro; 12) Into; 13) Yeast; 14) Step; 17) Here and there; 20) Underbidding; 23) Open; 24) Stale; 25) Jinn; 28) Purchase; 29) Topics; 30) Misdeeds; 31) Spread
Down: 1) Midnight; 2) Lighters; 3) Over; 5) Spots the ball; 6) Owns; 7) Safety; 8) Droops; 11) Readvertised; 15) Paint; 16) Crude; 18) Divisive; 19) Agonised; 21) Pompom; 22) Ferris; 26) Shoe; 27) Coop